

Town of Thurston Board Meeting Minutes  
Held: Wednesday March 20, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.  
Location: 7578 County Route 333, Thurston

Present: Town Supervisor: Michael Volino  
Town Council Members: Noel Sylvester, Holly Chase, Daniel Gee, Jennifer Hargrave  
Town Highway Superintendent: Saige McGarvey  
Town Dog Control Officer: Randy Akins  
Town Attorney:  
Town Code Officer:  
Town Historian: Noel Sylvester  
Town Assessor: Gerald Gebhard  
Town Justice:

Absent: Darlene Smith, Diana Dixon, Rachel Treichler

Visitors: Tim Hargrave, Richard Stewart, Sam Dick, Theresa Borhman

Michael Volino called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Sam Dick asked if there was any new information on the solar farm on Knowles road. Michael Volino stated that a moratorium is being considered. Volino stated he hasn't heard anything from the solar company since February. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Noel Sylvester to close public comment. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes: Motion was made by Dan Gee seconded by Holly Chase to accept and approve the February 21, 2024 Special meeting minutes and the Regular Board meeting minutes. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Bills Payable: Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Dan Gee for Michael Volino to pay all claims listed in the General abstract dated March 20, 2024 totaling \$14,755.82 and the Highway abstract totaling \$8,199.65. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Clerk's Report: February monthly deposits were \$203.00

Justice Report: Justice Darlene Smith reported \$438.00 collected in the month of February. Michael Volino stated that the JCAP grant in the amount of \$6,025.92 has been awarded.

Tax Collector Report: All of the Town tax has been collected and half of the Steuben County tax has been collected as of 03/15/24. The last day for tax collecting is March 31, 2024.

Assessor Report: Gerald Gebhard stated that the Assessors have finished the annual drive around with over 900 pictures taken. The Assessors will finish working on documentation and finalize the paperwork for the annual Board of Assessment Review.

Historian Report: Rosalyn Reed Renner has received the Historian keys to the Town Hall and will begin the duties of the Town of Thurston Historian position.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: Nick Nolton turned in a report on March 20, 2024 to the Town Clerk at 8:55 p.m. Nolton reported 4 open complaints, issued 2 certificates of occupancy, and issued 1 building permit.

Dog Control Officer's Report: Randy Akins reported 5 dogs running at large. The spring drive through rabies clinic is scheduled for April 20, 2024 from 10 am till 12 noon at the Highway shop. The dog enumeration is scheduled for early May 2024.

Supervisor's Report: Michael Volino emailed the February monthly report to the Town Board and a hard copy is on file in the Clerk's office. Michael Volino stated that the Local law #1 of 2024 has been filed with the NYS Secretary of State. Hargrave Construction finished the kitchenette on March 1, 2024. The 2023 Vendor list and transactions have been sent to NYS Open Books for annual compliance with FOIL on March 9, 2024. Southern Tier Generators did an annual inspection on 01/12/24 and stated that the generator is in good working condition. Volino stated that he attended the Town of Cameron March regular board meeting. Volino attended a 12 hour virtual training in Government Accounting offered by the Office of the State Comptroller on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Dan Gee and Jennifer Hargrave attended the second Housing Needs Assessment Subcommittee meeting on March 14, 2024. The playground equipment was delivered on March 15, 2024. The playground will be installed by Parkitect by late March or early April.

Highway Superintendent Report: February 2024 monthly report was presented to the Board. Items of interest and work performed 02/22/24-03/20/24. The roads have been plowed and or sanded 2 times. The Fire Department driveway and Town Hall parking lot have been plowed 2 times. Brush removal along South Hill, Forty Dollar, Lewis, and Rial roads has been completed. A headwall on Tucker road has been replaced. Saige McGarvey met with Elmira Highway Superintendent to get some guidance. Removed tree limbs from roadways. Used stone dust to fill potholes until cold patch can be made. Unloaded playground equipment at the Town Hall. McGarvey is scheduled to attend Highway training in April and June 2024. Motion was made by Dan Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to accept and approve the Clerk's report through the Highway Superintendent's report. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Old Business: Michael Volino stated that the revisions were made to the Town Hall rental application and the rental amount has been increased to \$50.00 nonrefundable. Holly Chase suggested a driver license photo ID be added to the application in case a major problem arises. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to add a required driver license photo Id to the Town Hall rental application. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that

he has the job duties list complete for the Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Board members, Historian, and Supervisor positions. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to accept the job duties list as written for each of the positions listed. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Annual Internal Audits for the Town Clerk, Town Justice, and Town Supervisor have been completed. A resolution is required for the Town Justice audit for the NYS Justice compliance requirements. Motion/ Resolution to accept the Town of Thurston Justice 2023 audit was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester. Put to vote; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Dan Gee to accept the Town Clerks 2023 internal audit. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Holly Chase to accept the Town Supervisor's 2023 internal audit. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, abstain; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. There were 2 bids for the highway shop improvements that being new siding and construction of an oil room. Jason Smith Construction's quote was \$44,170.00 and Hargrave Construction was \$29,590.00. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Dan Gee to hire Hargrave Construction to do the Highway shop improvements. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, abstain; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to put Gray siding on the shop. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. PERMA 2024 work zone safety grant is available for public works dept safety equipment. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for Michael Volino to submit the application for the grant. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. A safety committee is required for the grant. Michael Volino, Saige McGarvey, Diana Dixon, Noel Sylvester, Randy Akins make up the committee. A safety coordinator is required. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase for Michael Volino to be the safety coordinator. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, abstain, Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase. Carried. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Dan Gee to close Old Business. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

New Business: Michael Volino stated that he wanted to thank Tommy Stephens for his many years of service to the Town of Thurston. Michael Volino asked for a motion for Saige McGarvey to put help wanted ads in the Addison Post and in the Southern Tier Shopper for a temporary part time employee at \$18.00 per hour with work hours from April through September and a fulltime employee with a pay rate \$18.00 - \$20.00 per hour based on experience. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Saige McGarvey to put the help wanted ads in the designated papers. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he received a lawn maintenance bid and contract from Alan Crooker for the 2024 season to maintain the lawns at 5 cemeteries and the Town Hall for \$5,000.00. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester for Michael Volino to sign the lawn maintenance agreement contract with Alan Crooker for \$5,000.00. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that

there is a sewer cleaner, a semitrailer, and the AMC Army Trucks at the Highway shop that never get used. Volino asked the Board to consider putting these pieces of equipment for sale on Auctions International. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Dan Gee to put the equipment listed above for sale on Auctions International. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that Randy Akins will do a dog enumeration in May 2024 with the help of Mary Akins and 1 other person for \$1,500.00. The NYS department of Ag and Markets suggest an enumeration every 5 years. This should be put on facebook to inform the Thurston residents. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for Randy Akins to do the enumeration for \$1,500.00 plus mileage. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that he sent Attorney Gary Abrahams a copy of the Solar law to make amendments and suggestions for a Solar law moratorium. Motion was made by Dan Gee seconded by Holly Chase to approve the amendments to the Town of Thurston Solar local law moratorium #2 of 2024. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to schedule a public hearing on the Solar Local Law moratorium #2 of 2024 at 6:45 pm on April 17, 2024. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Michael Volino stated that a decision needs to be made by April 30, 2024 whether or not a second Peterbilt Dump Truck should be purchased to replace the dump trucks that have been broke down off and on all winter. Michael Volino asked for a resolution to transfer \$6,025.92 from A3021 to the Justice Equipment account A1110.2. Motion/Resolution was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Dan Gee for Volino to transfer the funds needed. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Dan Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave for Michael Volino to transfer \$1,425.25 from A3021 and put \$810.10 in account A1620.2 and \$615.15 in account A5132.2. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Noel Sylvester seconded by Holly Chase to transfer \$91,056.70 from A688 to A7140.2 to pay for the playground equipment and installation. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Dan Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried. Motion was made by Jennifer Hargrave seconded by Holly Chase to close New Business. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Motion was made by Holly Chase seconded by Noel Sylvester to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:09 p.m. Put to vote: Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Michael Volino, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk